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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) 1,208.

(b) The State Government have granted assistance to the displaced persons in the shape of business loans, house loans and ration allowances. A total sum of Rs. 7,46,137 has been disbursed as loans. The Government of India have not granted any subsidy to the State Government. They have, however, given a sum of Rs. 10,794–4–0 to unattached women, infirms and widows towards maintenance allowance."

*Extent of poramboke lands in the South Arcot district.*

* 1150 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the extent of poramboke lands in the South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " The extent of poramboke lands in South Arcot district is 496,431 acres."

*Refusal of permission to buy the* Malabar District Gazette.

* 1151 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have refused permission to any panchayat board in Malabar to buy the *Malabar District Gazette*; and

(b) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) Does not arise."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" May I inform the Hon. Minister and ask a question in that way that the Badagara Panchayat Board was refused permission to buy the *Malabar District Gazette*? May I know whether the Government consider it a prejudicial material to buy the District Gazette? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" There seems to be no need for panchayats with little income to spend money on the purchase of the District Gazette and the *Fort St. George Gazette*, especially as important orders, rules, etc., are communicated to Class I panchayats by the District Panchayat Officer and as rules, orders, etc., are also published in the Panchayat Journal published by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards for the information of panchayats."

*Betting on cotton prices in the City.*

* 1152 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that gambling known as " New York Cotton " betting is going on in Madras City; and

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(b) the action taken by the Government to check it and the number of persons prosecuted and convicted for taking part in this gambling?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir, to some extent.

" (b) The Police are taking suitable action under the Madras City Police Act. The number of persons prosecuted and convicted in 1953 for taking part in this form of gambling are 2,766 and 2,389 respectively."

Sri **N. RATHINA GOUNDER** :—" இப்பொழுது ஜோசியர்களை நம்பி இந்த சூதாட்டக்காரர்கள் சூதாடி பாழடைகிறார்கள். எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் இவ்விதமாக மக்களை எமாற்றி வாழும் இப்பகல் கொள்ளைக்காரர்களைத் தடுக்க அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா ? "

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" In connection with a similar question put by me when we met here last time, I divulged an incident where one person committed suicide after losing quite a lot of his fortune in taking part in this kind of gambling. Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the Police officials, instead of making investigation into the fact of the incident, are after me and that they are coming to my house and pressing me to give details as to who the person was, where he was, when he committed suicide, etc.? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" How does it arise out of this question? "

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" This question refers to gambling."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member puts a supplementary question, then he will be troubled again." (Laughter.)

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" That is the reason why I am craving the protection of the Chair that the department should be instructed not to send their officials after the Members of the Legislature, harassing them and trying to get details from them, instead of making their own efforts to find out the details. Is the Hon. Minister aware of all these facts? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I wish the hon. Member had been obliging enough and immediately gave the information so that he would not be harassed in future." (Laughter.)

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" On a prior occasion I invited the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that sections 45 and 46 of the Madras City Police Act did not apply to gambling on New York cotton prices. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to go into the matter and bring forward a suitable amendment to that Act so as to make it applicable to gambling on New York cotton prices also? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We are taking action under the City Police Act and the provisions are found to be sufficient enough. So far no court has said that

the provisions of this Act do not cover this case. Therefore, I do not think that there is any necessity at present to bring forward an amendment to that Act.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" While I appreciate the invitation of the Hon. the Leader of the House to hon. Members to co-operate with the Police by giving the necessary information, I would like to point out that there was an admission in his answer that the Police officials were harassing the Member. Will the hon. Member be again subjected to such harassment? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If asking for information is harassment, I submit that I have admitted it. I only suggested that the hon. Member could have given all the information in his possession so that the Police might look after other cases instead of making a fresh investigation into the matter."

*Maternity hospitals and centres in the City.*

* 1153 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of women admitted into the Government maternity hospitals in the City of Madras and the number of women admitted in the maternity hospitals run by the Corporation of Madras ;

(*b*) the amount of Government subsidy given to the Corporation of Madras for running the Corporation maternity centres; and

(*c*) whether the Government have appointed any Health Sisters in the City?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No hospital for the exclusive treatment for maternity cases is maintained in the City either by the Government or by the Corporation.

" (*b*) Nil.

" (*c*) No, Sir.''

SRI A. RATNAM :—" What are the maternity centres maintained by missionaries and private parties and what is the extent of Government aid given to them? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be given notice of."

*Removal of silt from the Chemnad stream in Kasaragod taluk, South Kanara.*

* 1154 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the investigation regarding the silting of the Chemnad stream in Kasaragod taluk, South Kanara district, is over and if so, when the silt in the stream will be removed?